V. 15 No. 2

ADMINISTRATOR'S MESSAGE

In past years, drought has seriously affected the people of the State of Montana. This year could be another such year. State agencies have implemented a variety of programs to reduce the impact of drought. I would like to take this opportunity to remind all of you that Montana does have a drought plan, which most of you should have.

Now is the time to dust off the plan, and if nothing else, become familiar with appendix B "Information Guide for Drought-Related Inquiries for the State of Montana." This appendix is being updated and will be in your hand shortly. This appendix tells you who is responsible for what and who to call with your drought-related questions.

If you do not have a copy of the Drought Plan, contact Mary Arnold of my staff.

- George M. DeWolf-

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CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

May 1	New Radio State Term Contract Available		Homer Young
30	Memorial Day Holiday		
June 7-10	Radiological Response Team Course	Lewistown	Dan Lieberg
20-24	Intro. to Emergency Management Course	Miles City	Kate Selby
July 4	Independence Day Holiday		
August	Shelter System Officer Course	**CANCELLED**	
12	Newsletter Deadline		Mary Arnold

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TITLE III - TRAINING

Twenty-one Integrated Approach to Hazardous Materials Response Workshops (IAHMR) were completed in March. Representatives of state and local fire, law enforcement, and emergency medical organizations conducted the workshops.

Not all of the after-action reports are in, but it appears that over 1,000 emergency personnel will have attended the workshops. Additional workshops are being scheduled in the future to provide more of this valuable training.

The primary focus of next years training will be the Incident Command System. A broadbased multi-disciplined approach will be utilized.

- Chris Christensen-

RADIOLOGICAL MONITORING INSTRUMENTS AND TRAINING

Do you know the difference between background radiation and radiation being emitted from a contaminated surface? Some people do, and some people don't.

Beginning in Federal Fiscal Year 1989, we are going to start picking up the radiation monitoring sets that are not assigned to a trained monitor.

There have been several cases during 1987 where the people who responded to an incident involving a potential radiation problem, did not know how to work the instruments properly and could have caused a bigger problem if the radioactive material actually had been leaking from it's container. We have no record that the people using the instruments were ever trained.

To alleviate further potential problems, we will not exchange a monitor set (these are the instruments assigned to law enforcement, fire, ambulance, etc.) unless a person has been trained in its use.

We will implement this policy when we begin our FY89 instrument exchange in District I.

- Dan Lieberg-

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FLOOD FIGHT COURSES

Flood Fight Courses will be held in April in Miles City, Helena and Deer Lodge. These classes will include a National Weather Service discussion on flood warning and the projected flood potential this year, and a presentation by the Corps of Engineers on sandbag procedures. The sandbagging portion will include hands-on experience filling, moving and correctly placing sandbags.

Anyone who might be involved in organizing and managing a sandbag operation will benefit from the class. The classes will run from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at:

Helena, April 28
Weed Control Bldg. on Cooney Drive off of Custer Ave.

Miles City, April 26
Custer County Courthouse Annex-behind the courthouse

Deer Lodge, April 28
Community Center, behind the Powell County Courthouse - 409 Missouri

If there are any questions, please call Jan Henry at 444-6911.

- Jan Henry-

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DISASTER RECOVERY OPERATIONS COURSE

The DRO was held for the second year on March 15-17, 1988, in Helena. Twenty-seven students attended and were introduced to the Presidential disaster declaration process. They also learned what their responsibilities at the local or volunteer levels would be if their jurisdictions were to be damaged and subsequently declared a Presidential disaster area.

Students in the class were from fire, law enforcement, public works, DES, American Red Cross, and county government. We hope they all will be better prepared to assist their jurisdictions in responding to, recovering from and mitigating a disaster as well as the potential secondary disaster of dealing with the state and federal disaster programs and requirements.

- Jan Henry-

MAKING THE MOST OF WATER

"Gasp, gasp, pant, gasp." A gnarled prospector crawls into the scene.

"Water! Water!," he cries.

But, there is no water.

Montana is facing the same situation this summer. Two years of below average annual precipitation has reduced stream flows, lowered reservoirs and forced cities and towns to regulate water use.

Not much can be done to stop drought - short of a long, soaking rain. However, the effects of drought can be reduced by using the available water more effectively.

The Soil Conservation Service offers advice about soil moisture conditions and irrigating to farmers and ranchers. Extension Agents have pamphlets and brochures with suggestions for reducing water use in homes and business. The USDA distributes information on drought-resistant landscaping for homeowners.

Montana DES has a booklet containing information on long-term water conservation for water system managers. "Before the Well Runs Dry" is a handbook for designing a local water conservation plan. This handbook suggests methods for identifying problems, analyzing cost effectiveness of programs and selecting and implementing the best methods of water conservation.

For more information on these brochures, contact Mary Arnold at 444-6911.

- Mary Arnold-

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HOSTILE ATTACK

The Hostile Attack section of the Hazard/Vulnerability Analysis was recently completed. This section covers both Terrorist Attack and Nuclear Attack. Montana has no history of either of the types of hostile attack discussed, and is unlikely to become a victim, however, the potential exists. This newest section will increase your awareness of the effects of, potential for, vulnerability to, and mitigation techniques for the two forms of hostile attack addressed. You should receive your copy of the Hostile Attack section soon.

- Shannon Heath-

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EXPOSE YOURSELF!

Yes, you heard right; expose yourself! The best way to gain public support for your program is to show the public what you've got. Public support is critical to an effective program. In many communities, the average citizen has no idea what Disaster and Emergency Services represents.

Why is public support so important? When Disaster and Emergency Services activities become important issues in your community, you will find that cooperation and assistance, needed in carrying out your job, become much easier to attain. Additionally, an informed public is much more likely to respond appropriately in the time of disaster, once again facilitating your job.

How can public support be attained? There are a number of ways to make Disaster and Emergency Services more visible. The media is the most obvious communication tool.

Some communities have local radio and television talk shows that offer excellent opportunities to promote aspects of your program. A brief column in the local newspaper with information and guidance on what can be done to enhance survival in the event of a particular type of disaster, not only serves the community, but also advertises your organization.

Another means of promoting public awareness of DES is to set up a booth at the next county fair or some other event with high attendance. This is a great opportunity to get rid of some of that ancient shelter candy you've got stashed away; you certainly wouldn't go unnoticed.

Take some time to drop by and visit with anyone who might have a role in some phase of disaster and emergency management. Make them aware of what you do and how their capabilities mesh with others in the event of an incident. The familiarity you gain during these meetings will greatly enhance the cooperation you receive when you really need it.

There are a number of other means of gaining public support. I'm sure you can think of some that would be effective in your community. So, don't hold back. Expose yourself.

- Shannon Heath -

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SHELTER SURVEY

NAPB-90 is the guideline for survey efforts in 1988. Blast, fire and fallout surveys are mandated in Montana. Most of the state is designated as a high risk area, and will be surveyed in the future for these hazards. A fringe of western counties have been designated as medium risk for fallout and/or blast and will be surveyed in the near future. These counties are:

Lincoln, Sanders, Lake, Mineral, Ravalli, Granite, Deer Lodge, Butte-Silver Bow, and Beaverhead Counties.

Region VIII surveyors have begun work in Lake County while I am recovering from an extended illness. The completion of this work will probably take most of 1989.

We have on hand several copies of FEMA publication H-12-3, Home Blast Shelter that we will send out to the local coordinators upon request.

- Don Sinnott-

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NOTIFICATION

The Shelter Systems Officer Course scheduled for August 22-26 in Great Falls has been **CANCELLED** due to unanticipated budget constraints.

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PROFESSIONAL ASSISTANCE

New communications systems and major upgrades to existing systems represent a substantial investment, not only in dollars, but also in time, for your jurisdiction. If you are planning to purchase a new system or make major changes to an existing system, consider hiring an independent and unbiased professional engineer for much of the planning, bidding, and implementation.

A professional engineer will analyze overall needs, consider not only cost, but maintainability, survivability, and any unique requirements. In system upgrades the engineer will also insure equipment compatibility. Typically, an engineer

can save you 15 percent to 35 percent in overall costs and should be retained early in the planning process.

Several reasons for hiring a qualified independent engineer are:

1) A technically competent third party can help keep you at arm's length from the bidding process, allowing easier, objective decision-making.

2) The vendor is less likely to pressure an independent engineer with irrelevant business relations and other leverage factors. Bidders are less apt to try to "snow" an engineer.

3) Engineers have had experience with a lot of systems. Often they have worked in industry in a similar capacity with bidders. Therefore, they not only have a broad technical understanding of what equipment is available, practical, and reasonable, they also understand how bidders think.

4) Professional engineers have authority based on their credentials and proven expertise. They may be working for you, but they will strive to maintain their professional reputation, which is on the line for every project undertaken. Contrast this to the case in which you have a vendor representative, providing you with system design information, whose livelihood depends on the volume and cost of equipment he can sell.

5) If you end up with a disgruntled, unsuccessful bidder, the decision to use a professional engineer could mean a reduction in nuisance litigation, because the bidder generally will recognize that the engineer can fight this type of harassment successfully.

6) Finally, the engineer is a technical buffer between you and the vendor.

Radio communication systems are complicated by a broad range of factors that must be considered in their design, procurement, and installation. The cost of a competent professional engineer is more than offset by the time saved, problems eliminated, and confidence in the fact that you are getting the best system for the dollar spent.

- Homer Young-

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TRAILS' END

There are two remaining courses scheduled for this training year. Both are excellent opportunities to improve your knowledge and skill in emergency management.

The **Introduction to Emergency Management Course** will be conducted in Miles City, June 20-24. The **Radiological Response Team Course** is being held at Lewistown, June 7-10. Because of the vast geographical area of our state the locations for these courses are changed every year in an effort to accommodate all those who wish to attend. Neither one will be offered again at these location in the near future.

The closing dates for both courses is May 16th, so we encourage you to send your applications in as soon as possible, if you have not already done so. Student expenses for travel, lodging and meals are reimbursed at the current state rate.

Contact Montana Disaster and Emergency Services at 444-6911 should you desire additional information.

- Kate Selby-

DID YOU KNOW...

...The State of Montana has its own Exercise Design Team? The function of this group is to design exercises for various state departments and agencies to practice emergency management assignments and state-level coordination in simulated disaster situations.

1987's State Exercise focused on role clarification, resource identification and improving the operation of the State EOC. That simulation revolved around severe flooding in southwestern Montana and the eventual failure of Hyalite Dam at Bozeman. The exercise ran for five hours and was attended by key representatives from 14 state organizations.

Participation during actual exercises and on the team that designs those exercises include the Dept. of Natural Resources and Conservation, Dept. of Health and Environmental Sciences, Montana University System, Dept. of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Dept. of Justice, National Weather Service, Dept. of Livestock, Dept. of Labor, RACES, Dept. of Highways, Dept. of Institutions, Dept. of Administration, Montana National Guard, Disaster and Emergency Services and the Montana Territory Red Cross.

The State Exercise Design Team will conduct another exercise sometime late this summer. This exercise will allow state officials and departmental field personnel to test their respective communications and information systems. That activity will be classified as a full-scale exercise since the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) will be activated with key individuals representing the various state agencies, while equipment and field personnel across the state are mobilized.

Next years' plans for the State Exercise Program include a table-top exercise and a functional exercise. An earthquake scenario has been chosen for both events and the State EOC will once again be activated to involve department directors and their deputies.

If you would like to learn more about designing disaster simulations or the State Exercise Program you can contact Kate Selby, Exercise Training Officer at 444-6911 in Helena.

- Kate Selby-

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FOREWARNED IS FOREARMED?

Severe Weather Awareness Day will be proclaimed by Governor Schwinden on May 9th. There will also be severe weather warning exercises conducted statewide during the week of May 9-13.

Simulated warning and notification, by calls initiated from weather service offices, via NAWAS, will go to various Disaster and Emergency Services coordinators within each weather service office area. Another notification method for this exercise may be via amateur radio.

If you are one of the DES coordinators who receive a test message of impending severe weather, the National Weather Service (NWS) would like you to return a message noting the day and time you received the information. Your return message should go through the Criminal Justice Information network (CJIN), to the weather service office in your area.

Please make sure you transmit data back through CJIN as soon as you receive the warning. The goal of this exercise is to determine if

watches and warnings are reaching you and how quickly.

This is an excellent opportunity to practice local, state and federal coordination and notification procedures for severe weather warnings. The National Weather Service and Montana Department of Justice and Montana DES thank you for your cooperation.

- Kate Selby-

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COMINGS AND GOINGS

We are all going to miss Carl King, Blaine County DES Coordinator. Carl participated in our programs for 11 years, and was well known for his love of golf. Carl died February 29, 1988 while vacationing in Arizona. Theron "Pete" Paulson has been named the new DES coordinator in Blaine County.

Jack Bacon, another long time Civil Defense coordinator has retired. The new Wibaux County coordinator is Frank Datta.

Carol Hellyer has replaced Rocky Nelson as Garfield County Civil Defense coordinator.

Fallon County's new director is Helmut Straub.

Eva Bohling resigned as Accounting Technician from the State DES office. No doubt, all EMA jurisdictions will miss her. Linda Cottrill has filled this accounting position. Linda was previously our receptionist.

The voice you've been hearing answering our phones belongs to Shauna Cornell. Shauna has a real knack for keeping us all smiling. We're glad to have her here full-time.

The Helena Office recently lost Scott Smith from the RADEF shop. Many of you met Scott during RADEF instrument exchanges. Scott got an offer he couldn't refuse and is working for the National Guard at the Army Aviation Support Facility. Good Luck, Scott!

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BULLETIN BOARDS?

What are bulletin boards? They are the newest form of computerized information sharing.

With a computer, a modem tied to a telephone line and a communication software package, you can tap information on just about any topic.

Two computerized bulletin boards that you may find useful are the State and Local Emergency Management Data User's Group (SALEMDUG) bulletin board and the Montana Agricultural Marketing bulletin board.

The SALEMDUG bulletin board provides a forum for sharing emergency management computer applications. This board is sponsored by FEMA and serves as an important resource for data user group members nationwide.

The Montana Agricultural Marketing bulletin board is primarily designed to provide information to agricultural producers in Montana. However, a section on drought-related information has been added to allow the exchange of soil moisture, precipitation and Drought Task Force information.

Both of these bulletin boards are free to the user. But, you will have to pay phone charges for the time you are connected to the system.

If you would like more information on these bulletin boards, please call Mary Arnold at 444-6911.

- Mary Arnold -

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DISTRICT I HIGHLIGHTS

1. "The (emergency management/DES) program is as good at the local government level as the county executive or mayor want it to be. It's that simple. They're the bosses. They're the ones in charge..." -- Lacy Suiter, Director, Tennessee Emergency Management Agency, 1987.

2. The Third Annual Northwest Hazardous Materials Conference is scheduled for April 7-10 at the Sheraton Hotel in Missoula. Speakers are nationally and internationally recognized authorities in their fields. (As this is written (3/28/88), only two local DES coordinators have registered -- both from District One.)

3. Dick Giffin, Lake County DES coordinator was interviewed for The Professional Emergency Manager, by Dr. Thomas E. Drabek. The book, which deals with structures and strategies for success of local DES coordinators is available from: Institute of Behavioral Science #6, Campus Box 482, University of Colorado, Boulder, CO 80309.

4. Coordinators are reminded that state program standards for local DES programs will be evaluated beginning July 1, 1988. The standards were implemented last year and compliance is expected prior to July 1, 1988. See the memo dated March 31, 1987, to all local DES coordinators from George DeWolf, Administrator. The memo states in part "Emergency Management Assistance (EMA) funds provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and administered by the Disaster and Emergency Services Division will not be distributed to any political subdivision found to be in non-compliance."

5. Hazardous materials spills and leaks in Missoula, Sanders, and Lake Counties required evacuation of some residents. The incidents in Missoula and Sanders County involved Montana Rail Link and the incident in Lake county involved a pesticide spill at Arlee Jr. High School.

6. A downed power line near Whitehall was cited as the cause of a major wildfire in Jefferson and Madison Counties. Most of the hundreds of acres burned, including 4 homes, 15 irrigation structures, 200 tons of hay and approximately 300 acres of grass and hay land, occurred in Jefferson County. Total damage was estimated at $492,000. Congratulations to Jim McCauley, Jefferson Co. DES, Steve Wulf, Madison Co. DES, and the hundreds of others involved for a job well done. This fire dramatically pointed out the advantages of the Incident Command/Management System and up-to-date mutual aid agreements.

7. On March 16, 1988, a power failure at Barrett Memorial Hospital in Dillon resulted in the emergency generator kicking in as planned. Unfortunately, the generator quit before power was restored. Beaverhead Co. Search and Rescue provided emergency power until the generator was fixed. According to Larry Laknar, Beaverhead Co. DES, until the power failure, the generator had been tested weekly, but only for 15 minutes at a time. A critique pointed out the need for longer tests.

8. A recent Disaster Research Center study suggests ten criteria by which

disaster planning can be judged. Good planning, the author says, should:

- recognize that disasters are qualitatively different from minor emergencies;
- be generic rather than agent-specific;
- be integrated rather than fragmented;
- be based upon an emergent resource coordination and not a command and control model;
- focus on general principles and not specific details;
- recognize that far more is involved than producing a document;
- strive to evoke appropriate actions by anticipating problems and possible solutions;
- be based on what is likely to happen;
- rest on valid knowledge and not myths and misconceptions;
- use the best scientific knowledge possible.

The study, entitled "Criteria Which Could Be Used in Assessing Disaster Preparedness Planning and Managing" (preliminary Paper #122, 17 pp., $3.00) is available from: Publications Clerk, Disaster Research Center, University of Delaware, Newark, DE 19716.

9. E.L. "Buzzy" Peterson received the 1988 Presidents' Award from the Montana DES Coordinators Association. The award is voted on by the association membership and is awarded "For outstanding service to the Montana Disaster and Emergency Services program and association."

10. If for any reason you are unable to reach the State DES duty officer after hours by calling 444-6911, call 1-800-525-5555. This toll-free number rings directly into the Montana Highway Patrol dispatch center in the State Emergency Operations Center and is also a 24-hour number. The Highway Patrol dispatcher will then put your call through to the duty officer.

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DISTRICT IV HIGHLIGHTS

New Coordinator Carol Hellyer is working hard on the Garfield County Emergency Operations Plan. Carol is a dispatcher in the Sheriff's Office in Jordan. All agencies and departments in the county are well into planning for a large exercise. My thanks to Carol and the commissioners for their present enthusiasm.

Remember the Introduction to Emergency Management Course in Miles City June 20-24, 1988. This needs a 75-5 enrollment form as soon as possible.

County EOP's are in various stages of completion in most counties. Fallon and Richland County Coordinators just completed an EPC course in Cheyenne. The last day was cut short because of a real snowstorm that caused the classroom to be closed, and most escape routes out of the city to be shut down. We thought for a while we had lost them to Wyoming.

There is some confusion on the part of LEPC's about the need to create a separate "PLAN" for addressing hazardous material. We may be missing the boat completely if we are not involved enough to influence the outcome of this "PLAN." Some very aggressive people are concerned and working on the hazardous material problem.

Now is the time to consider the cost saving from purchase and appropriate use of computers in disaster and emergency services. Even with "short money" the payback from the use of computers is quick, and initial costs can be justified.

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ADJUTANT GENERAL

GEORGE M. DeWOLF
ADMINISTRATOR

The articles in this newsletter do not constitute official policy.
Mary Arnold, Editor.

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May 1, 1988

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